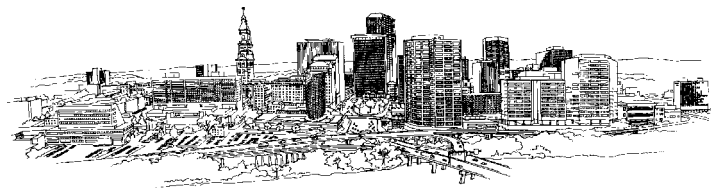


# CITY OF HARTFORD

**DIVISION OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET**  
*Office of Grants Management*  
550 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Telephone (860) 543-8650 • Fax (860) 722-6061



**COUNCIL – MANAGER GOVERNMENT**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, May 14, 2001

CONTACT DEBORAH BUSH  
(860) 522-4888 Ext. 6129

### **City of Hartford Receives First Annual John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award**

The City of Hartford is the recipient of the first annual John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award. The award was given to the City by the National Community Development Association (NCDA). The award is in recognition of Hartford's outstanding demonstration of the positive benefits resulting from the use of federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the city. NCDA is a national nonprofit organization comprised of more than 550 local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development, housing and human service programs funded by HUD.

Ms. Chandra Western, President of NCDA stated, "The John A. Sasso Award was established to recognize communities that exemplify the spirit of the CDBG program by showcasing its good works through the activities and events that comprise its National Community Development Week Campaign. Hartford is an outstanding example of how the week can be used to highlight how CDBG is a valuable community development tool." National Community Development Week is held each year during Congress's spring recess. It is a time for communities receiving CDBG funds to communicate to Congress, and other elected officials, the achievement of the CDBG program and to advocate for continued funding.

City Manager, Saundra Kee Borges said, "The award is a result of the creative and collaborative efforts that have taken place each year in Hartford since National Community Development Week was established in 1986." Hartford works closely with local and federal elected and appointed officials, and a wide range of stakeholders, to ensure that the programs and services provided with CDBG funds have a direct and positive impact on the lives of Hartford's residents.

"This is terrific news for the City," said Mayor Peters. "The City, particularly the Grants Management staff, has really shown their commitment and dedication to the CDBG

program, which is what has made it so successful. National Community Development Week has been a great way to showcase the results of these community partnerships and this award recognizes the culmination of those efforts." The Mayor went on to say that the City's commitment to using the week as an opportunity to celebrate the CDBG program in many ways is a "reflection of the spirit of public service exhibited by Ms. Linda Bayer." Linda Bayer is the former director of Hartford's CDBG program and past president of NCDA. She was one of many people who were instrumental in the creation of National Community Development Week. Ms. Bayer received the City's first CDBG Lifetime Achievement Award during the City's April celebration of National Community Development Week.

Thomas L. Phillips, Director of Development Policy and Program Administration for the City of Hartford stated, "No award is ever given because of one person or one event. This award is a true reflection of effective collaborations within the city of Hartford. My staff and I are gratified by the recognition NCDA has given Hartford."

An awards luncheon will be held during NCDA's annual conference in Corpus Christi, Texas on Friday, May 25, 2001.

MVE/G&L/SASSOPRESSRELEASE